

***Amendments***

In accordance with 37 CFR §1.121, please amend the above-identified application as set forth below.

**Amendments to Claims:**

Please amend the claims as set forth below.

1-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for separating discrete bodies from a source body having a face and a longitudinal direction, the apparatus comprising:

a separating device;

an advance device for advancing the source body towards the separating device;

an optical detection device for determining the face area of the source body;

a tunnel in which the source body is guided, the tunnel having an end adjacent the separating device, the tunnel having a length substantially aligned with the longitudinal direction;

a plurality of lamps for illuminating the surrounding environment of the face;

the lamps being mounted in the tunnel for illuminating in a planar fashion along the longitudinal direction of the source body such that the face and the surrounding environment of the face have an optical contrast,

wherein the optical detection device determines the area of the face by means of said optical contrast between the surrounding environment and the face, and the source body is advanced as a function of the detected face area as determined by the optical detection device;

wherein the tunnel comprises a front edge in which the lamps deliver diffuse radiation completely around the surrounding environment ~~of the face with an intensity which is reduced towards the face and~~

wherein the lamps deliver radiation directed rearwards away from the face.

7. (Resubmitted) An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the lamps are individually adjustable.

8. (Resubmitted) An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the direction of radiation of the lamps can be oriented individually.

9. (Resubmitted) An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the lamps are movable by motorised means and a control system is provided for adjustment of the lamps.

10. (Resubmitted) An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the control system has a memory for the storage of settings for the lamps for respective ambient conditions.

11. (Resubmitted) An apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the control system evaluates reflection and contrast of the detected image and the control system adjusts the lamps to minimise reflection and increase contrast.

12. (Resubmitted) An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the lamps are controlled in pulsed fashion and the detection device is controlled in correspondingly triggered fashion.

13. (Resubmitted) An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the lamps are potted and form a smooth surface.

14. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the tunnel is made of a reflective material.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for separating discrete bodies from a source body having a face and a longitudinal direction, the apparatus comprising:

a separating device;  
an advance device for advancing the source body towards the separating device;  
an optical detection device for determining the face area of the source body;  
a tunnel in which the source body is guided, the tunnel having an end adjacent the separating device;

a plurality of lamps for illuminating the surrounding environment of the face; the lamps being mounted in the tunnel for illuminating in a planar fashion along the longitudinal direction of the source body such that the face and the surrounding of the face have an optical contrast,

wherein the optical detection device determines the area of the face by means of said optical contrast between the surrounding environment and the face, and the source body is advanced as a function of the detected face area as determined by the optical detection device;

wherein the tunnel comprises a front edge in which the lamps deliver diffuse radiation with an intensity which is reduced towards the face; and

wherein the tunnel comprises a cover adjacent to the front edge in which the lamps deliver radiation directed rearwards away from the face.

17 - 18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for separating discrete bodies from a source body having a face and a longitudinal direction, the apparatus comprising:

a separating device;  
an advance device for advancing the source body towards the separating device;  
an optical detection device for determining the face area of the source body;  
a tunnel in which the source body is guided, the tunnel having an end adjacent the separating device;

a plurality of lamps for illuminating the surrounding environment of the face, the lamps being mounted in the tunnel for illuminating in a planar fashion along the longitudinal direction of the source body such that the face and the surrounding of the face have an optical contrast,

wherein the optical detection device determines the area of the face by means of said optical contrast between the surrounding environment and the face, and the source body is advanced as a function of the detected face area as determined by the optical detection device;

wherein the tunnel comprises a front edge in which the lamps deliver diffuse radiation with an intensity which is reduced towards the face; and

wherein the side wall of a lighting frame provided for contacting the source body is slidable.

20 - 43. (Cancelled)